

398

SCERT WEST BENGAL

Its Role and Function



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STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING, WEST BENGAL

Background :

State Council of Educational Research and Training is the latest development in the organisation of Educational research, training, extension and co-operation for the qualitative improvement of school education in our country. The State Institutes of Education were set up in 1964 and since then some other institutions also grew up to cope with the educational needs of the people. In west Bengal, besides the S. I. E. situated at Banipur, a number of such other institutions also grew up in the last few years and consequently there was little co-ordination in the programme of work undertaken by these different institutions in their individual capacity. In view of this type of situation prevailing in different states, it was suggested in a recent conference of the Directors of SIEs/ SCERTs/ SIERTs held in New Delhi that the States should take immediate steps to bring all those institutions together in the shape of SCERT. Like the National Council of Educational Research and Training, located in New Delhi every state should have its own SCERT. Accordingly the SCERT was established by the Government of West Bengal 'to advise and supervise all activities towards the improvement of school education and training programmes of teachers and administrators connected with Primary and Secondary education'.

In its different meetings the SCERT recommended for the setting up of three following Committees for its effective functioning in the field of education :—

1. Committee on Organisation and Administration,
2. Programme Advisory Committee,
3. Finance Committee.



The first committee, with the DSE as its convener, was entrusted with task of recommending the structure and functions of the SCERT. The second one, with the DDPI (Trg.) as its Convener, was asked to make a survey of the resources available in different institutions/organisations under Education Department and its different Directorates as well as to prepare a scheme of work to be undertaken by the SCERT in the field of Primary education.

The finance committee was formed with Administrator W. B. B. S.E as its chairman to advise on financial matters of the S C E R T.

On the basis of the reports from the first two Committees, the organisation of the SCERT, West Bengal, and its functions were specified by the G. O. No. 712-Edn (CS) dated 21.5.80 in the following manner. As per the G. O. the following institutions should be merged to form the SCERT :—

- (i) The State Institute of Education, W. B.
Banipur,
- (ii) The Bureau of Educational and
Psychological Research, Calcutta,
- (iii) The Evaluation Unit of the Bureau
of Educational and Psychological
Research, Calcutta,
- (iv) The Evening B. Ed. Cell of the
Education Directorate,
- (v) The UNICEF-assisted Science Education
programme section of the Education
Directorate,
- (vi) The Extension Services Departments
attached to David Hare Training
College, Calcutta, Government Training
College, Hooghly and the Institute of
Education for Women, Alipore,
- (vii) The Educational Technology Cell.

The functions of the SCERT will be as follows :—

- (i) To act as an agent of change in school education and life-long non-formal education in general and in teacher-education in particular,
- (ii) To arrange for the in-service training and orientation of supervisory / Inspecting Officers dealing with the pre-school, elementary, secondary and higher secondary education in the State,
- (iii) To arrange for the in-service training of teacher—educators working in the teacher training institutions for the teachers working at all the stages of education from pre-school through higher secondary,
- (iv) To organise programmes including correspondence-cum-contact courses for the overall professional development of teachers, teacher-educators and supervisory/inspecting officers,
- (v) To provide extension services to teacher training institutions at all levels in the State,
- (vi) To co-ordinate the work of Extension Service Centres of the teacher training institutions in the State,
- (vii) To produce curricula, instructional materials, text books etc. for the use of educational institutions and teachers of pre-school, elementary, secondary and higher secondary stages in the State,
- (viii) To prescribe curricula and text books for the schools and teacher training institutions at the pre-school and elementary stages,
- (ix) To produce instructional material for the use of teacher-educators at the secondary and higher secondary education levels,
- (x) To function as a controlling authority essentially in connection with the academic aspects of elementary teacher-education,

- (xi) To conduct studies and investigations in the various problems of education in general and in the training of teachers and the teaching of the curricula at the levels of pre-school, elementary, secondary and higher secondary education,
- (xii) To co-ordinate programmes of different subject teachers associations in the State,
- (xiii) To undertake specific projects at all levels of education and perform such other functions as may be entrusted to it by Government from time to time.

The **administrative structure** of the SCERT would be as follows :—

- (i) **Director :** Pending the creation of post of Director, SCERT, the Director of Secondary Education will remain in overall charge of SCERT.

(ii) **Division of Curriculum Development :**

Principal, State Institute of Education, Banipur, who will be designated as Officer-in-charge (Curriculum Development) will remain in-charge of the Division. The Text book Research Unit and the Publication Unit would be included in this Division.

(iii) **Division of Educational Research, Evaluation and Examination Reforms :**

Principal, Bureau of Educational and Psychological Research, Calcutta, who will be designated as Officer-in-charge (Research, Evaluation and Examination Reforms) will remain in-charge of the Division.

(iv) **Division of Training and Extension :**

Professor, Bureau of Educational and Psychological Research, who will be designated as Officer-in-charge (Training and Extension) will remain in-charge of the Division.

(v) **Division of Educational Technology :**

D. D. P. I. (Evening B. Ed. Cell) who will be designated as Officer-in-charge (Edn. Technology) will remain in-charge of the Division.

The posts attached to the different institutions/offices which are now being merged into SCERT will henceforward be deemed to have been transferred to the respective Divisions.

The Administrative Unit of the SCERT would, for the time being, function at the David Hare Training College, Calcutta.

Present Members of the SCERT, West Bengal :

(Vide G. O. No. 1215-Edn (CS) dt. 29. 6. 78)

- (1) Education Minister-in-charge of
Primary & Secondary Education
and Library Services ... Chairman
- (2) Secretary, Education Department ... Member (Ex-Officio)
- (3) Special Secretary, Education
Department ... " "
- (4) Director of Public Instruction, W.B. ... " "
- (5) Director of Secondary Education,
W. B. ... Member-Secretary
- (6) Director of Primary Education, W.B. ... Member (Ex-Officio)
- (7) President/Secretary, West Bengal
Board of Secondary Education ... " "
- (8) President/Secretary, West Bengal
Council of Higher Secondary
Education ... " "
- * (9) Deputy Director of Public Instruc-
tion (Social Education), W. B. ... " "
- * (10) Deputy Director of Secondary
Education for Women, W. B. ... " "

- (11) Deputy Director of Secondary Education (Anglo-Indian Schools), W. B. ... (Member Ex-Officio)
- (12) Deputy Director of Public Instruction (Trg), West Bengal. ... " "
- (13) Principal, State Institute of Education, W. B. Banipur ... " "
- (14-18) Principals of the Training Colleges not exceeding five in number, to be nominated by the Government ... Members.
- (19-23) Distinguished Educationists not exceeding five in number, to be nominated by the Govt. ... "
- (24-28) Renowned Public workers and Educationists not exceeding five in number, to be nominated by the Government. ... "
- ** Both in-charge of the Non-formal Education of the age groups 15-35 and 11-14 respectively.**

Later the G. O. No. 1843-Edn(CS) dated 13.9.79 nominated the following persons in the SCERT for Serial Nos. 14-28.

Sl. Nos. (14-18) :

1. Head of the Department of the Teachers' Training, Calcutta University ... Member.
2. Principal, David Hare Training College, Calcutta. ... "
3. Principal, Institute of Education for Women, Hastings House, Alipore, Calcutta. ... "
4. Principal, Vinaya Bhawan, Viswabharati, Santiniketan. ... "
5. Principal, P. G. B T. College, Banipur, West Bengal. ... "

Sl. Nos. (19-23) :

1. Prof. Satya Sadhan Chakraborty ... President, District School Board,
24-Parganas.
2. Smt. Mrinalini Dasgupta ... Principal, Beltala Govt. Sponsored Jr. Basic Training Institute,
Calcutta.
3. Prof. Monoranjana Mondal ... Bankura Christian College,
P. O. & District-Bankura.
4. Vacant
5. Vacant

Sl. Nos. (24-28) :

1. Shri Sisir Ranjan Chakraborty ... Headmaster, Bhabataran Sarkar Vidyalaya,
35/2, Beadon Street,
Calcutta-700006.
2. Shri Gouri Sankar Bose ... Headmaster, Bhatpara Amarkrishna Pathsala,
24-Parganas.
3. Shri Golokpati Roy, ... Headmaster, Kamala High School, Calcutta.
4. Smt. Geeta Sengupta ... Headmistress, Ultadanga Sarda Prasad Girls' High School, Calcutta.
5. Shri Gokulananda Roy, ... 89 Mahatma Gandhi Rd.,
Calcutta.

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ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES OF THE SCERT, WEST BENGAL

(1980—82)

Orientation :

In connection with the introduction of the Revised Primary Education Curriculum, the SCERT was entrusted with the proper orientation of Primary School teachers, inspectorate staff and the JBTI staff. The orientation programme of two weeks duration was organised at three successive phases and in different places.

Phase-I—One hundred Key persons were given orientation at David Hare Training College, Calcutta (March'80). The selected participants were expected to assume key-roles in the subsequent phases of the orientation programme.

Phase-II—About One thousand resource persons were given Orientation at 10 selected JBTI'S in the districts (June-July, 1980). They included Principals/ Lecturers of JBTI's, Inspectorate staff, and representatives of the Zilla Parishads.

Teachers of the Senior Training Schools in Calcutta were given orientation separately (Dec'80).

Phase-III—This phase of the programme was organised in all the 47 JBTI's in West Bengal. About 40,000 Head teachers and Teachers-in-charge of the primary schools in West Bengal have up till now been oriented.

All these programmes were executed in close co-operation of the Inspectorate of Primary Education, Principals & Staff of the JBTI's and the Teachers' Associations at the Primary stage.

It was decided by the SCERT that there should be provision for training of teachers through Santali, Nepali etc. languages as media of instruction.

Seminars :

- A. A two-day seminar was organised for the Headmasters and Assistant master of the primary section of the Government and Government-sponsored schools in Calcutta. About one hundred teachers participated in the seminar.
- B. A One-day seminar on the Revised Primary Syllabus for senior officers of the Education Department and Directorate was organised at the Rotunda, Writers' Buildings in February, 1981. The Hon'ble Minister of Education (Primary and Secondary and Library Services) addressed this seminar and it was attended by about 60 senior officers of the Education Department/Directorate.

Publication :

The SCERT was entrusted with the preparation of new text books (Manuscripts) following the Revised Primary Syllabus.

In the preparation of the text books (Manuscripts) five expert Committees were set up to scrutinise, examine and approve, with modifications, if necessary, the manuscripts of the text books. Later authors and reviewers were selected and appointed for the purpose. Manuscripts, prepared by the Authors, were discussed in different meeting of the authors and reviewers and were finally submitted to the authority for publication.

Up till now 16 text books have been published :

Class I	Mother-tongue	
	Bengali	1
	Nepali	1
	Urdu	1
	Arithmetic (Bengali)	1
	Arithmetic (Urdu)	1
Class II	Mother-tongue	
	Bengali	1
	Nepali	1
	Urdu	1
	Arithmetic (Bengali)	1
	Arithmetic (Urdu)	1

Class III	Mother-tongue	
	Bengali	1
	Arithmetic (Bengali)	1
	Environmental Studies (Bengali)	1
Class IV	Mother-tongue	
	Bengali	1
	Arithmetic (Bengali)	1
	Environmental Studies (Bengali)	1

The manuscripts of the following text books will be completed by the end of June, 1982.

Class III History & Geography (Bengali) 1

Class IV History & Geography (Bengali) 1

Class V Mother-tongue

Bengali 1

Arithmetic (Bengali) 1

Science (Bengali) 1

History & Geography (Bengali) 1

Translation of Text books and Syllabus :

Steps have been taken to translate the syllabus, text books and guide books in Nepali, Alchiki, Hindi, Urdu and Santali.

Guide Book :

Manuscripts of teachers' guide books for Classes I and II have been prepared, and a summary of the same has already been published. In the preparation of these manuscripts, the procedure followed was the same as that followed in the preparation of the text books (Manuscripts). A General Committee and different sub-committees (for different subjects/activity areas of the syllabus) were set up. The manuscripts were discussed and reviewed in a joint meeting of the committee and the sub-committees and finally these were approved and accepted.

JBTI-Syllabus :

Following the introduction of the Revised Primary Education Curriculum in West Bengal, it became necessary to revise the Syllabus of the Junior Basic Training Course. A 17 member committee, headed by Prof. H. B. Majumdar was appointed for the

revision of the syllabus. This Committee, helped by a number of sub-committees appointed by it, has prepared, scrutinized and finally submitted the revised syllabus to the Hon'ble Minister of Education (Primary and Secondary and Library Services) for approval. Officers of the SCERT were involved in this work and the syllabus prepared by this Committee has already been published under the supervision of the SCERT.

Programmes in collaboration with the NCERT, New Delhi

Population Education :

A Seminar on Population Education was held at 25/3 Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta on 9.11.81 attended by the Hon'ble Minister of Edn. (Primary & Secondary), the Education Secretary, the Director of Public Instruction, the Director of Secondary Education, Presidents of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education and of the West Bengal Council for Higher Secondary Education, the D. D. P. I (Trg), Prof. B. S. Parakh, Head, Population Education Unit, NCERT and other dignitaries. Officers of the SCERT, West Bengal were sent to attend various seminars organised by the NCERT, New Delhi on Population Education. The last Workshop was held at Benares and the report of the same had been submitted to the SCERT for its approval. The final decision in the matter will be taken by the Government at an early date.

Continuing Education :

The SCERT, West Bengal has been entrusted with the supervision of the academic activities of the four Continuing Education Centres in the State (viz. ABTA B.Ed. College, Calcutta, A. C. Training College, Jalpaiguri, Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, Midnapore, and Purulia Government Sponsored B. Ed. College, Purulia) vide G. O. No. 472-Edn(CS) dated 2.4.82. The Member Secretary of the SCERT, West Bengal has been given the overall charge of those four Continuing Education Centres. This Programme is now being implemented under the supervision of the SCERT.

UNICEF-assisted programmes : Out of the five such programmes three have been accepted in West Bengal and the

SCERT has been working for the implementation of these projects. A sample survey on the basic data related to the educational needs of the local people has been conducted in 30 selected schools located in different areas of West Bengal and necessary data have been submitted to the NCERT.

Activities within the State :

Orientation of the Primary teachers for the implementation of the Revised Syllabus of Primary education in the State of West Bengal :

Under the auspices of the S. I. E. (SCERT), West Bengal orientation programmes of Primary School Teachers of different districts notably, 24 Parganas & Purulia have been undertaken. Self-governing institutions like District School Board, Zilla Parishad etc. and Primary Teachers' Organisations are actively participating in these programmes.

What SCERT Needs :

The issues like the status, accommodation of its staff, complete merger of different institutions of the SCERT (as spelt out in the G. O. No. 712-Edn (CS) dt 21st May '80) and the creation of the post of the whole time Director with an appropriate status are under active consideration of the State Government.

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